

## Virginia Prosperity.

By Governor H. C. Stuart, in the Baltimore Sun.

Broadly speaking, Virginia along with other Southern States, is sharing in the prosperity which seems to have come to the whole country. We see that the output of coal and coke is larger than for several years past; iron furnaces, long cold are again in full blast; all branches of manufacturing are getting into full swing; labor is employed and is increasing demand at remunerative wages; money is easy for the more favored class of borrowers at reasonable rates, especially in the cities; good crops of grain, hay, tobacco and peanuts have been already gathered. We see that the aggregate cash value of the agricultural products of the United States for the present year reaches the phenomenal figure of \$55,000,000.

We know that the prosperity of the country is based on and largely grows out of these agricultural products; that they constitute and, in a large sense, measure our national income; that they establish and maintain the huge trade balance in our favor. These conditions give prosperity and stability to what is known as "big business," and afford the means directly and indirectly of building up huge fortunes to the credit however, of men who have had the least to do with producing of these conditions. It must be admitted that the men who have grown these great crops and thus created these values and opportunities, are the smallest participants in the rewards that flow from them.

With the unprecedented foreign demand for agricultural products of all kinds, including live stock, we find practically all of them below the average price of the three preceding years and most of them below the fair cost of production. The cotton crop of 1914 went out of the hands of the planters at a figure below cost of production and only the fact of a very short crop prevented the planter from meeting the same fate in 1915.

Nearly all of the grains are lower than they were before the European war began, only a few grades of tobacco are selling at remunerative prices on the warehouse floor, though there seems a gleam of hope for better prices. Peanuts, one of the important money crops of Virginia, are in the same category, minus the gleam of hope.

The average price of live cattle is much lower than that of 1914 and substantially below the average of the last three years. The average price of hogs is lower than it has been for several years. The average horse is lower than for 10 years past. These conditions as to live stock exist in spite of an urgent foreign demand at war prices, which is being met by unparalleled shipments to European markets, markets which have been more or less closed against us for several years. In spite, also, of big advances in the price of hides, amounting in cases of large animals to \$5 or \$9 per head in spite, also, of sharp advances in every by product from the slaughter house.

We are told that the prevailing depression in the prices of agricultural products is due to an oversupply. Let us enquire into this in the single case of live cattle omitting enquiry as to other agricultural products. The question is, how can there be an oversupply of cattle when there was an admitted shortage in the American and world supply dating back to 1912? It is a well known fact that merchantable beef cannot be produced on a large scale on short notice; at least four years are necessary to increase the supply after the task is undertaken. How, then, can the shortages of 1912 become a surplus in 1915 when no effort

effort to increase has been made? How can true shortage of 1914, or the early part of 1914 before the European war began, be converted into a surplus in 1915 in the face of the practical cessation of importations from Argentina to our own country, coming simultaneously with an enormous demand for our meats from foreign countries. During the same months of 1914 in which American live cattle have been steadily declining until they have gone below the cost of production, Argentina live cattle have advanced from \$1 to \$4 a hundred, about 50 per cent, and are now bringing more a pound in Argentina than better cattle are bringing on the Chicago market.

Under the present trade conditions, while so much of our beef product is finding a European outlet, it must be true that oversupply in the United States would be reflected in the price of the Argentine product. Can it be that competition between English and American buyers on the Argentine markets has brought about this advance in Argentine cattle? If so, does not the inference necessarily arise that the depression in cattle on the markets of the United States is due to the absence of competitors between buyers on our open markets.

It is a fact that cannot be denied that the number of cattle in the United States decreased by 75,000,000 head, while the population increased by 15,000,000. The producer is told that all of the foregoing facts are overcome by the fact that the foreign outlet is limited because of the shortage of ocean transportation. The answer to this is that several times as much beef has actually left the United States for European ports as left in the same period of 1914, or for the same period in any other recent year.

The producer is also told that the ocean freight rate is excessive, that it costs as much to transport a live bullock or a cavalry horse from this country to the European customer as the American producer gets for the animal. If this be true it seems that all classes have combined to conduct our foreign business on a scale of reckless extravagance, knowing that all excessive charges, on the traffic and much more, can be saddled on the producer by deducting these charges from the price of the product on an artificially controlled home market.

From these, or other sources, beyond my knowledge, the producer of the necessities of life which constitute the basis of our national wealth, are, as a class, buying at war prices, while selling below established peace prices. In this respect they seem to occupy a unique position in the economic world. It is of no value to the man of the soil to feel that he has created \$55,000,000 of national wealth, while the products which this amount represents are leaving his hands at prices depressed by the very conditions which ought to stimulate them. It is of no value to the American farmer that manufacturers can sell a rifle which costs \$11 for \$38, when he knows that the bread and meat consumed by the man who carries the rifle goes out of his hands at less than the fair cost of production.

I earnestly admit that the restrictions imposed by England on the shipment of American food products to neutral countries have contributed to the lowering of the price of American farm products, even though such restrictions have not seemed to have the same effect of certain classes of manufactured products. I am of the opinion that our Government should adopt vigorous measures to open up the pathway of the seas for the legitimate trade of the United States.

### Vast Fortune Is Due Virginia In Revenues.

Richmond, Va., Jan. 1.—Since the year 1903, when the payment of capitation taxes became imperative under the new constitution, the total amount

collected by men who have

been in the cities are far more delinquent in the matter of paying poll tax than the people in the counties and towns. In the report which Auditor Moore is preparing it will be shown that 25 per cent of the white people fail to pay in the counties, while the negroes are delinquent 58 per cent.

White persons in the cities are careless, indifferent and have little regard for government affairs, the report showing that only 48 per cent of them pay their poll taxes, while the delinquents among the negroes in the cities reach 86 per cent.

For the period named, 1913 to 1914, the State has lost a total of \$1,894,324.46 by reason of the delinquent taxes, and the counties and counties have lost \$947,162.24, making a total loss to the State, cities and counties of \$2,841,486.70.

The total delinquents for the year 1914 aggregates \$278,008.

## Worn Out?

No doubt you are, if you suffer from any of the numerous ailments to which all women are subject. Headache, backache, sideache, nervousness, weak, tired feeling, are some of the symptoms, and you must rid yourself of them in order to feel well. Thousands of women, who have been benefited by this remedy, urge you to

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72, of which the counties and towns have men who owe the State \$178,771.71 and the cities \$50,240.93. This is by far the largest amount of any year since the new constitution became operative.

## Radford Normal Notes.

On next Saturday Prof. R. T. Stephenson, of Abingdon, President of the Ninth District Teachers' Association, and Prof. W. M. Black, of Lynchburg, President of the Sixth District Teachers' Association, will meet at Radford to confer with Dr. J. P. McConnell and Prof. J. P. Whitte as to the plan for the Third Joint Educational Conference for twenty-two counties and four cities of Southwest Virginia which will be held at the Normal School late in February or early in March. More than five hundred teachers, representing all grades of institutions from the university down to the primary school, will be present at the Third Annual convention.

The school quarter of the Normal School opened January 11th. Most of the new students who entered the Normal School at that time have been teaching for the last five or six months and are well prepared to take up the professional courses in the Normal School. At the opening of the third quarter, March 21, a still larger number of teachers will enter. Many of them will remain, not only for the third quarter, but throughout the summer quarter opening in June and closing in August.

A Bulletin on Bible Study Work in connection with the public high schools and the higher Bible institutions will be issued this month by the Normal School. This Bulletin explains the Radford Normal plan of giving credit for Bible Study done outside of the Normal School and it also summarizes the various plans that have been worked out in many of the northern and western states and cities for public high school credit for Bible work.

### Acid Plant For Richlands.

According to the Graham Daily News, there is strong prospect of the location of an acid plant at Richlands which will give employment to a large number of men. It is said that the establishment in that town of a quarter million dollar plant is practically assured, and that several hundred men will be given work. It is further reported that arrangements have been made with the Honaker Lumber Company for furnish the wood for the plant. One rumor has it that Swift and Company are behind the move.

Old newspapers for sale at this office.

## WHY SHOULD WOMEN VOTE?

WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF LEADING FARMERS.

Why should women vote? That is the question that is ringing from ocean to ocean and reverberating from the Canadian boundary to the Mexican border. It is the mission of a newspaper to give the news and the action of the Texas Farmers' Union in opposing woman's suffrage when that question was recently before the Texas legislature is significant as representing the attitude of the organized plowmen. We reproduce in part the argument presented by Hon. W. D. Lewis, president of the Texas Farmers' Union, in opposing the bill: "It is gratifying to note that it is not the farmer's wife who is clamoring for the ballot. She is too busy trying to make happier homes, molding the minds of future citizens and sharing with her husband the cares of life to indulge in political gossip. The ballot will give her no relief from drudgery, give no assistance in clothing the children or bring to the home additional comforts, conveniences or opportunities in life. It is, as a rule, the city woman promoted to idleness by prosperity, who is leading the suffrage movement.

"From many standpoints, perhaps a woman has as much right to vote as a man. So has she as much right to plow as a man; she has as much right to work in a factory as a man; she has as much right to shoulder a musket as a man, but we would rather she would not do so from choice and we regret that necessity oftentimes compels her to earn a living by engaging in painful occupations. We do not consider misfortune a qualification for suffrage or a business accident a reason for granting franchise. We are opposed to woman at the ballot box the same as we are opposed to woman in the field, in the factory or in the army and for the self-same reasons. We had rather see her plant flowers than sow wheat; gather bouquets than pick cotton and rear children than raise political issues, although she may have as much right to do one as the other.

### Opposed to Unsexing Humanity.

"Sex qualification for suffrage may have its apparent inconsistencies. No general rule adjusts itself perfectly to all conditions. It is a favorite argument advanced by the proponents of woman's suffrage that many cultivated and noble women are far more capable of intelligently exercising sovereignty than a worthless negro, but the South never was anxious for negro suffrage, and while culture and refinement, and even morality, are desirable virtues, they are not the only qualifications for franchise.

"The primary, inherent and inseparable fitness for suffrage is supportable family. The plow handle, the forge and the struggle for bread afford experience necessary to properly mark the ballot. Government is a great big business and civilization from the very beginning assigned woman the home and man the business affairs of life.

"There has been much freakish legislation enacted during the past decade that no doubt appeals to woman's love for the ridiculous, but to undertake to unsex the human race by law is the height of legislative folly and a tragedy to mankind.

"We are opposed to the equal rights of woman—we want her to ever remain our superior. We consider woman's desire to seek man's level the yellow peril of Twentieth Century civilization.

"Woman is the medium through which angels whisper their messages to mankind; it is her hand that plants thoughts in the intellectual vineyard; it is through her heart that hope, love and sympathy overflow and bless mankind. Christ—the liberator of woman-kind—was satisfied to teach the lessons of life and He was a man. He chose to rule over human hearts and refused worldly power and men followed after Him, women washed His feet, little children climbed upon His knees and the Ruler of the universe said that in Him He was well pleased. Can woman find a higher calling?"

### THEMISTOCLES

When Themistocles was asked by his host at a dinner party to entertain the guests by playing the lute, he replied that he could not play the fiddle, but that he could make a small town a great city. We have in this nation many politicians who are good "fiddlers," but they cannot make a small town a great city. We are over-run with orators who can play upon the passions of the people, but they can't put brick and mortar together. We need builders.

Let those who hunger and thirst for power understand that the highest glory of a statesman is to construct, and that it is better for a man that he should build a public highway than that he should become Governor of a state, and that he start a plow than that he become the author of a law. The true test of statesmanship is the plow and the hammer, so let those who would govern, first build.

## BANKERS URGED TO CO-OPERATE WITH FARMERS

SOUL MATERIAL HAS ENTERED THE BANK VAULTS OF THE NATION.

The Bank a Financial Power House to the Community.

By Peter Radford.

One of the greatest opportunities in the business life of the nation lies in practical co-operation of the country banks with the farmer in building agriculture and the adventure is laden with greater possibilities than any forward movement now before the American public.

A few bankers have loaned money to farmers at a low rate of interest, and oftentimes without compensation, to buy blooded livestock, build silos, fertilize the land, secure better seed, hold their products for a better market price, etc. The banker in contributing toward improving the grade of livestock; the quality of the seed and the fertility of the soil, plants in the agricultural life of the community a fountain of profit, that, like Tennyson's brook, runs on and on forever.

Community Progress a Bank Asset. The time was when money loaned on such a basis would severely test the sanity of the banker; such transactions would pain the directors like a blow in the face. A cashier who would dare to cast bread upon water that did not return buttered side up in time for annual dividends would have to give way to a more capable man. This does not necessarily mean that the bankers are getting any better or that the milk of human kindness is being libbed more freely by our financiers. It indicates that the bankers are getting wiser, becoming more able financiers and the banking industry more competent. The vision of the builder is crowding out the spirit of the pawnbroker. A light has been turned on a new world of investment and no surer ever received as large returns on the investment as these progressive bankers, who made loans to uplift industry. The bankers have always been liberal city builders, but they are now building agriculture.

A Dollar With a Soul. It is refreshing in this strenuous commercial life to find so many dollars with souls. When a dollar is approached to perform a task that does not directly yield the highest rate of interest, we usually hear the fumble of the eagle's wings as it soars upward; when a dollar is requested to return at the option of the borrower, it usually appeals to the Goddess of Liberty for its contractual rights; when a dollar is asked to expand in volume to suit the requirements of industry, it usually takes solemnly of its redeemer, but soul material has entered into the vaults of our banks and rate, time and volume have a new basis of reckoning in so far as the ability of some of the bankers permit them to co-operate in promoting the business of farming.

God Almighty's Noblemen. These bankers are God Almighty's noblemen. Heaven lent earth the spirit of these men and the angels will help them roll in place the cornerstones of empires. They are not philanthropists; they are wise bankers. The spirit of the builder has given them a new vision, and wisdom has visited upon them business foresight.

The cackle of the hen, the low of kine and the rustle of growing crops echo in every bank vault in the nation and the shrewd banker knows that he can more effectively increase his deposits by putting blue blood in the veins of livestock; quality in the yield of the soil and value into agricultural products, than by business handshakes, overdrafts and gaudy calendars.

Taking the community into partnership with the bank, opening up a ledger account with progress, making thrift and enterprise stockholders and the prosperity of the country an asset to the bank, put behind it stability far more desirable than a letterhead bearing the names of all the distinguished citizens of the community. The bank is the financial power house of the community and blessed is the locality that has an up-to-date banker.

### POLITICAL PRAYER MEETINGS

It is a sad day for Christianity when the church bells call the communicants together for a political prayer meeting. Such gatherings mark the high tide of religious political fanaticism, put bitterness into the lives of men; fan the flames of class hatred and destroy Christian influence in the community. The spirit actuating such meetings is anarchistic, un-Christian and dangerous to both church and state.

The success of the nation is in the hands of the farmer.

Work for the best, and the best will rise up and reward you.

Tenant farming is just one thing after another without a pay day.

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V. & S. W. Railway In Effect February 15th, 1914.

LEAVES BIG STONE GAP No. 2 daily 9:05 a. m. for Bristol and intermediate points. Pullman sleeper. Connections at Bristol. Connections with N. & W. for points East and South. R. for points South and West. No. 3 daily, except Sunday, 11:41 a. m. for St. Charles and intermediate points. No. 4 daily, except Sunday, 3:17 p. m. for Bristol and intermediate points. Connections with N. & W. for points East. Connections at Moccasin Gap with train No. 8 for Bull's Gap, Rogersville and intermediate points. For additional information apply to nearest Agent or

W. E. ALLEN, General Passenger Agent, Bristol, Tenn.

NEW YORK, Norfolk and Western Schedule in Effect Nov. 22, 1914.

LEAVE NORTON—2:30 p. m. for Lynchburg and intermediate stations. Pullman sleeper. Bluefield to Philadelphia via Hagerstown, and Pullman sleeper Roanoke to Richmond and Norfolk. Also connections at Bluefield with trains Westbound. Pullman sleeper to Cincinnati and Columbus.

LEAVE NORTON—2:30 p. m. for points North, East and West.

LEAVE BRISTOL—Daily, 6:15 a. m. for East Radford, Roanoke, Lynchburg, Petersburg, Richmond and Norfolk. Pullman Parlor Car to Richmond. Pullman sleeper Roanoke to New York via Hagerstown and Harrisburg.

5:30 p. m. for Norfolk and intermediate points. Pullman Sleepers to Norfolk 1:32 p. m. and 7:55 p. m. (limited). Solid trains with pullman sleepers to Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York via Lynchburg. Does not make local stops.

12:15 p. m. daily for all points between Bristol and Lynchburg. Connections at Walton at 1:30 p. m. with the St. Louis Express for all points west and northwest.

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